

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11805 151342Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 11805

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, EG
SUBJECT: URGENT ISRAELI CONCERN OVER EGYPTIAN MILITARY INTENTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 164908, (B) TEL AVIV 5164, (C) CAIRO 11754

1. MET WITH FAHMY 1300 LOCAL TODAY FOR AN HOUR
AND TOLD HIM ABOUT ISRAELI CONCERNS RE EGYPTIAN MILITARY
INTENTIONS ALONG LINES REF B. ASSURED HIM THAT IN DOING
SO WE ARE IN NO WAY IMPUTING THAT EGYPTIANS ARE PLANNING
MILITARY ACTION, BUT WE BELIEVE WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY
TO HELP ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IT ESSENTIAL ON
EVE CARTER/BEGIN TALKS TO BE SURE THAT AIR IS CLEAR.
FAHMY, IT DEVELOPED, KNEW ALL ABOUT PURPOSE OF MY CALL.
IT SEEMS THAT DMI M/G SHAWKAT HAD IMMEDIATELY REPORTED
DATT'S EARLIER CALL (SEE BELOW) TO GAMASY, WHO IN TURN
NOTIFIED FAHMY.

2. FAHMY SAID WE COULD BE ASSURED THAT GOE HAS NO
RPT NO INTENTION OF MOUNTING MILITARY ACTION AGAINST
ISRAEL. STORY ABOUT POSSIBLE JULY 17 ATTACK "SHEER
NONSENSE." AS SHAWKAT HAD TOLD DATT, JULY 15 ALERT
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INTENDED AS "CAMOUFLAGE" TO COVER DEPLOYMENT OF SOME
UNITS NOW STATIONED IN EAST TO WEST, I.E., LIBYAN
BORDER. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 16-17. AS USG AWARE,
GOE HAS BEEN SEEKING CREATE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH WASHINGTON
TALKS CAN PROCEED SMOOTHLY. SADAT WILL TOMORROW MAKE
MAJOR SPEECH IN WHICH HE WILL ALSO MAKE SEVERAL POINTS
DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN CREATING GOOD ATMOSPHERE. USG

FREE TO GIVE CATEGORIC ASSURANCES TO ISRAELIS THAT GOE
HAS NO RPT NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS.

3. EARLY THIS MORNING I HAD INSTRUCTED DATT, B/G PFAUTZ,
TRY TO SEE DMI M/G SHAWKAT. IN MEETING WHICH DATT HAD
WITH SHAWKAT AT 1100 LOCAL, SHAWKAT GAVE CATEGORIC
ASSURANCES THAT GOE HAS NO RPT NO MILITARY INTENTIONS
IN EITHER EAST OR WEST. HE INDICATED THAT STORY OF
MANEUVERS IN EAST INTENDED COVER DEPLOYMENT OF SOME UNITS
TO THE WEST ON JULY 16-17. PURPOSE OF THIS DEPLOYMENT IS
TO "STRENGTHEN DEFENSES IN WEST." SHAWKAT ALSO
NOTED THAT GOE NEVER MANEUVERS TWO ARMIES AGAINST EACH
OTHER. EGYPTIAN EXERCISES INVOLVE ONLY BRIGADE-SIZE UNITS.
NO LARGE EXERCISE IS PLANNED. SHAWKAT ALSO MADE POINT
THAT GOE IS SEEKING PROMOTE GOOD ATMOSPHERE, AS EVIDENCED
BY GAMASY'S MESSAGE RE RETURN OF ISRAELI BODIES. SHAWKAT
EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT YET
REPLIED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TURN-OVER.

4. TRUST FAHMY'S ASSURANCES (ALONG WITH SHAWKAT'S
EXPLANATION) WILL ALLAY ISRAELI CONCERNS.
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